

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**April 17, 2006**

**7:30 PM**

Vice-Chairman Gatsas called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Vice-Chairman Gatsas advised that the purpose of the meeting shall be discussions relating to the proposed FY2007 budget.

Alderman O'Neil stated unless it came late to my home has anyone gotten the back-up information that we requested.

Alderman Lopez stated I would like to request that we have a five-minute recess to read this document from the Mayor please.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas called for a five-minute recess.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas called the meeting back to order.

Alderman Roy stated I would ask after reading this that the Mayor be present at all Finance Committee meetings or as much as possible to discuss, as we have departments come in front of us and discuss the merits as we are about to do with Information Systems so we can question his logic as well as his written report as well as talk to the departments.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded I think that basically we are working...if this explanation is not thorough enough then my suggestion is that you put some questions together that we can have the Mayor address but I think we are at the point that this is our budget and we are on that clean sheet of paper and we are building a budget.

Alderman DeVries stated I second the motion.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied I didn't accept a motion.

Alderman Roy stated the clean sheet of paper I believe goes against what our Charter asks us to do, which is to take the Mayor's proposed budget and by the second Tuesday in June present a budget to the constituents or present it back to this Board for adoption. The Mayor in his own language is looking to make a thorough change in the way government does business in the City of Manchester and if he is going to go through with that thorough change I think he should be here to back-up what he has put in five pages of writing that affects a well over \$200 million budget.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked is it your contention that you are going to amend the Mayor's budget.

Alderman Roy answered we are still discussing the Mayor's budget.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied well you just said to me that we have to work off the Mayor's budget. Are you proposing to amend the Mayor's budget?

Alderman Roy responded I would ask the City Solicitor what the Charter says regarding budgets.

Alderman Lopez stated while he is looking that up may I say something. I think it is important that we remember that we as Aldermen and the department heads come in here and we have the cameras over there. I think we are asking the tough questions to the department heads. I think it is only fair that the Mayor be present so that we can ask those type of questions publicly for the people of the City of Manchester to hear from the Mayor. Other than sending your questions and going in the backroom that is it. I think there is an obligation from the Mayor to answer our questions publicly as the department heads are answering the questions publicly and we put them through the third degree. Along that line if I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Kevin Clougherty about the statement that was made in the paper today. I would like to have him confirm it or deny it. It said that he certified all of the expense and revenue numbers in the Mayor's budget. Is that correct?

Kevin Clougherty, Finance Officer, replied I didn't read the paper so I don't know what it said.

Alderman Lopez responded well I am asking you then without reading the paper, have you certified all of the revenue numbers the Mayor put in his budget to include the expense for each department.

Mr. Clougherty stated I have looked at the revenue numbers in the Mayor's budget and they seem reasonable and accurate to me. His revenue numbers are lower

than the percentage increases that we have seen over prior years. His revenue projections are just that. They are forecasts. They are his forecasts and they are not unreasonable.

Alderman Lopez stated let me try this again. You put your approval on all of those numbers that were presented to us?

Mr. Clougherty replied those numbers that were presented to me are numbers that were prepared by the Mayor's Office with respect to his budget deliberations and his budget team. His revenue numbers are reasonable numbers. Are they the only reasonable numbers...

Alderman Lopez interjected do you agree with them.

Mr. Clougherty asked do I agree with them. I think in most cases they are reasonable Alderman.

Alderman Lopez stated that is no the question I asked. You are an officer of the City responsible to this Board. You have a fiduciary responsibility and I don't think I have to remind you of that. Are you agreeing with those numbers?

Mr. Clougherty asked what do you mean by agreeing with those numbers.

Alderman Lopez answered certifying all of the numbers.

Mr. Clougherty asked what do you mean by certifying. Those numbers that he prepared, as you do when you do the budget you look at the numbers to see if they are reasonable forecasts. You are not appropriating revenues as Mayor Baines reminded the Board on several occasions. What the revenue numbers are will be determined in November when we go to set the tax rate and at that time given what is happening in the economy and given what this Board has adopted with respect to ordinances to implement different revenues I will certify at that time but I do not certify revenues as part of a budget process. I certify them when I sign under pain of perjury that they are accurate in November for the DRA. Up until that point...have I talked to the Mayor about some of the numbers...overall bottom line his numbers and his projections are not unreasonable.

Alderman Roy stated I would now ask for the Solicitor's discussion on...

Vice-Chairman Gatsas interjected let me tell you that the seven years that I have been here doing budgets there has always been an alternative budget. I think you voted on one last year that wasn't the Mayor's budget. It was an Alderman's budget. Let's make is perfectly clear that every Alderman sitting in this room has

never voted on or amended just the Mayor's budget. There has always been another budget that has come forward. That has been a very clear statement that we have been doing for at least as long as I have been here and I would assume that some of you Aldermen who have been here longer have done the same thing.

Alderman Roy stated when those budgets are brought forward they are brought forward to the entire Committee and proposed and discussed at that time. If someone would like to bring forward an alternative budget more than a blank sheet of paper then we would prudently look at that alternative budget but until then the Mayor's proposed budget per the Charter is the proposed budget of this City. If not action is taken...

Vice-Chairman Gatsas interjected I am giving this Board an opportunity to build a budget. Normally that is the way we do it at the state level. Now if you want to change that and alter it so that Aldermen can bring in 14 different budgets I don't have a problem with that. We can go through them one at a time but I am giving everybody an opportunity to build this budget line item by line item the way it should be done so that we understand it and we have a clear understanding. If you are saying that we are dealing with a blank sheet of paper, I am giving you the advantage to be able to play on that blank sheet of paper just like everybody else has. I would think that we would try to build a budget as we have the departments come in line by line. That would be what we have been talking about since at least when we started. Now if this Board wants to take a different approach then we can all go home come in with 14 pieces of paper and we can all bring in our own budget.

Alderman Osborne stated I think this is the confusion because it has never been done in this type of forum or in this manner. I think that is why a lot of us are a little confused on how it is done.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded all it is is building a budget. I would think that we should be able to hear from departments on what they are doing.

Alderman Osborne stated well everyone used to bring in their own budget and so on.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied that is not what I am suggesting.

Alderman Osborne stated I know you are not suggesting that but that is the way it used to be so it is a little confusing.

Alderman Roy stated you made the suggestion that if we were to go and work from the Mayor's proposed budget as the Charter recommends that we would have

14 different budgets coming forward. Unfortunately when the Mayor took office or any Mayor takes office he starts off with what is already an existing budget and he works from there. This Mayor, in his first paragraph suggested that he ask all departments on December 8 to put together a zero-based budget. If that was accomplished I expected this evening to see 200 or 300 pages of documentation from the departments of every line item with priorities starting their zero based budget, not five pages of basically his speech from the night he proposed his budget. We are not starting with a blank sheet of paper. We have employees. We have services for constituents. We have an existing tax base. We should be working from those things to put forward a good budget.

Alderman Smith stated rather than go knit picking we have department heads here and this is a very serious one, the first one, Information Systems. Let's hear them out and we can go on from there.

Alderman DeVries stated I thought we were still working on the motion that Alderman Roy had made.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied I didn't accept a motion.

Alderman DeVries stated I think as Aldermen we have the opportunity to override you so I would defer to the Aldermen that we take a vote on whether or not we do wish to have the Mayor present so he can offer us some more detail on the budget. Obviously his staff spent three months preparing the budget, his first three months in office, and I don't think we should overlook the detail that he must have put in there but has just chosen not to give us. We will ask him to be present at the meetings to provide us with further detail.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so are you challenging the Chair. Is that what I am hearing?

Alderman DeVries answered yes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked do you want to make the motion.

Alderman DeVries answered the motion is made.

Alderman Osborne asked did we get a verdict from the City Solicitor yet.

Alderman Roy answered no we did not.

Alderman Osborne asked do we have one.

Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, stated I was looking for the specific language that Alderman Roy was referring to. What that language says is that after the public hearing the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may adopt the budget with or without amendment. Amending the budget you can add or increase programs or amounts, delete or decrease any programs or amounts except expenditures required by law or for debt service or for estimated cash deficit. I guess the key language here is amend. I believe that the Board if it chooses to do so can amend the Mayor's budget by starting with "the blank sheet of paper" and putting one together.

Alderman Osborne asked does the Mayor have to be here or not.

Alderman DeVries stated I think we are about to take a vote on that.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I have a motion and a second. Roll call.

Alderman Shea stated point of order. We can ask the Mayor to be here. It is up to him to make that decision. If he chooses to come that is fine and if he doesn't choose to come that is up to him. Maybe he should give a reason if he doesn't want to come. I think it is within our purview.

Alderman O'Neil stated point of order. Why are we going through all of this tonight? I mean Alderman Shea we can ask the Mayor to come or take a vote that he comes but we have no power to order the Mayor here.

Alderman Shea responded that is exactly what I said.

Alderman O'Neil replied that is right so why are we spending all of this time on this discussion.

Alderman Roy stated the motion was made as a request. We can't force a public official to be anywhere a public official doesn't want to be but I, for one, am upset with the detailed summary that we received this evening. If claims are made that there is zero based budgeting and documentation out there...

Vice-Chairman Gatsas interjected let's take the vote. Roll call. Aldermen Long, Lopez, DeVries, Thibault, and Roy voted yea. Aldermen Gatsas, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Shea, Garrity, Smith and Forest voted nay. The motion failed.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated let's proceed with Information Systems.

a) Information Systems Department

Diane Prew, Information Systems Director, stated good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to several members of my staff. On my left Jennie Angell is our Microcomputer and Networking Manager and Rick Linder our Systems and Programming Manager. On my right is Tony Schaffer, our Programmer Analyst. We would like to ask for your indulgence for a few minutes this evening. We have had several requests from Aldermen for additional information about what our department does. We have several new members of the Board and we are looking at a budget with drastic cuts being recommended. We would like to take a few minutes and give you a brief overview. The mission of the Information Systems Department is to provide the highest quality of services for the benefit of the City of Manchester through the efficient and creative use of automation. We are basically a service department. Our goal is to support the City departments. We will do whatever it takes to help them perform as effectively and efficiently as possible. Over the years the City has made considerable investment in resources and technology. Funding has come from various sources including budget appropriations, bonds and grants. With these funds we support the user community, their computers, the software that runs on the computers and the network. Our user hardware is made up of thousands of pieces of equipment in 51 buildings not including the School Department. We support PC's, laptops, PDA's, and printers. The support that we provide includes installing new equipment, repairing broken equipment, doing configuration and upgrades. In addition to the hardware, we support the network equipment. The network is made up of hundreds of pieces of equipment that support 51 network servers. There are 39 miles of fiber optic cable that provide connection between buildings. The network supports many functions including e-mail, financial services, HVAC monitoring, security access to buildings and many more. This is our network as it looked 10 years ago. There were connections in the Information Systems Department, which is located in the Central Fire Station, City Hall and City Hall Annex. There were departmental databases in four departments – Airport, Highway, Planning, which at that time was not in City Hall and the Health Department. The City as a whole was not connected. Our network as it appears today now connects to 51 buildings and is growing. This year we will be making additional connections to the Elliot Hospital, Catholic Medical Center, several fire stations, Rockingham Ambulance, the tower at Tower Hill and the District Court. The City's network also connects to the School Department. We support the City's website and the Internet connections. Our website provides 7 x 24 access for many City services with more planned for the future. The most recent service additions include online payments for motor vehicle registration and water and sewer bills. We also have the capability for automatic calculation of permit fees for businesses. It is my understanding that this is a service that the businesses appreciate. We have also installed a Google mini-search appliance. This makes for easing searching of PDA documents, particularly the Board of Mayor and Aldermen minutes and agendas. On a monthly basis we have over

40,000 unique visitors to our website. These are individual people or businesses who visit our website and if it were not available would have probably called the City department or had to come in or not received the service at all. There is a great deal of effort that goes into providing security and protection for the City's resources. In today's world a critical responsibility of any Information Technology department is protecting the organization's resources. There is physical security, keeping the systems up and running, backing up the data, and keeping the network secure. There is data security, protecting against data loss, misuse of data, and identity theft. Fault-tolerance. Things happen. The Internet service provider has problems and the Internet for the City goes down. Construction crews are out on the streets and they dig up our cables and equipment from time to time. Some services rely entirely on connectivity. For example, the City Clerk's Office Vital Records division requires a connection to the State of NH. Online payments on the website cannot function without the Internet. To deal with these issues we build in fault-tolerance wherever possible. We have dual Internet connections with different vendors. We maintain a failover site at the Rines Center. All of these things help us to keep City employees productive and able to provide timely services to our constituents. Centralized software. There have been some statements that we don't have a centralized financial system. Well we do. That system is HTE. It provides all of the central financial functions, including the general ledger, cash receipting, accounts payable, and purchasing. It provides for the creation of tax billing, water billing and sewer billing, building permits and payroll among others. Other centralized software is the City's e-mail system. We have over 1,000 e-mail accounts. We receive over 250,000 external messages per month and these numbers keep increasing. Our e-mail provides us address book capability and calendar functions. This is a critical application for communication. It improves internal communication. Where we used to write a memo and send it with the courier to another department we now have a few keystrokes on our computers and the information is there. It speeds up external communications with our vendors and our service providers. It is software that truly helps employees to be more efficient. We also support the Geographic Information System, better known as GIS. This is one of the new and exciting additions to the systems that the City has. It brings together information, City maps and aerial photographs. You will see a lot more about GIS tomorrow at the BMA meeting. In addition to the centralized applications, there are many departmental applications. These are unique programs to individual departments. We have over 60 applications that we support and these are growing. Among these applications are the Assessor's appraisal system, voter registration, and parking tickets to name a few. Today there are few office based functions that don't involve technology in some way. In addition to that we are now moving our applications outside of the City with the introduction of mobile data terminals in police cruisers and fire engines. We support the productivity software tools that are used by employees. These are used daily on their computers. They include



such things as word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software such as what you are looking at today and e-mail. These are the tools that make employees more efficient and productive. We also support the City's telephone systems. There are telephone systems in 80 locations, including the School Department. Phones are no longer just phones and jacks. There are computers behind these systems that allow them to perform expanded functionality. We also monitor the City's telephone bill and make sure that we are not paying for things we shouldn't be. We just found 16 phone lines that had been used at the School Department and where that functionality has been transferred to the network that can now be put to other purposes or cancelled. Operations and administration. Our Help Desk takes between 65 and 80 calls a day. We keep track of over 3,000 items of inventory, including warranties, physical location, and when they were purchased and this helps us with grant writing. We track over 67 software licenses and service agreements. These include the expiration dates and who the software is assigned to. We need to keep detailed records in this case because we are subject to audits by the various software providers. Operations. We have daily computer operations. We maintain weekly and monthly schedules and do our back-ups and run job requests for large, off-hours applications such as the tax bills. We are proud of the service that we have provided to the City since 1979. We believe that we provide a high level of service to City departments. Not all information technology departments are the same. Some have a more narrow focus. We have taken a broad focus and tell our staff to do whatever they can to help departments do their job in the most efficient ways. We get involved in a wide variety of projects from building renovations, fiber cable layouts, management of department moves and a whole lot more and we hope to be able to continue to provide this level of service to the departments.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I noticed here that you did a...so the first one you did was the minus 3% and you showed the impact.

Ms. Prew responded yes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked can you tell me what the impact of minus 3% is and how many employees that would be. Did you reduce employees?

Ms. Prew answered yes we did. The impact of the minus 3% budget would be that we would lose two positions from our staff – a Programmer position and the Administrative Assistant.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked how many vacant positions do you have now.

Ms. Prew answered I have one vacant position right now.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked how long has that position been vacant.

Ms. Prew answered since September.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked what is that position.

Ms. Prew answered that is the Programmer position.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked has it been frozen or you just haven't been able to fill it.

Ms. Prew answered it is frozen.

Alderman Osborne asked is it five...it this going to disrupt five employees.

Ms. Prew stated under the 3% budget from 2006 we would lose two positions. It is the Mayor's recommended budget where we lose five positions.

Alderman Osborne asked if that happens what services would that disrupt.

Ms. Prew replied are you talking about the Mayor's budget.

Alderman Osborne responded yes.

Ms. Prew stated the Mayor's budget quite frankly would be devastating to the departments.

Alderman Osborne asked in what way.

Ms. Prew answered we would lose 25% of our staff. Five positions is 200 man-hours a week. I will ask my staff to go through what the cuts will mean to their particular areas. We have that in various levels of detail here for you. We will start with the LAN Administrator, Jennie.

Jennie Angell stated the first thing I want to say is if we lose our LAN Administrator the network is going down. I can't tell you when it is going down but when it does go down it will be idle. The last time we had a major outage it went down for two days.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked how many users do we have on the network now.

Ms. Angell answered 1,000.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so you are saying everybody would be down. You just said 1,000 would be down.

Ms. Angell answered the whole thing goes down at once, 1,000 users would be idle.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated and you said that happened once before for two weeks.

Ms. Angell responded no days. I would appreciate a little indulgence. At one point back in I believe 1998 the City lost all of their Microsupport staff because the City was not paying enough for us to staff. We lost quite a few of them to the state. At that time Diane sent all of those positions as we were hiring over to me because she didn't have another supervisor. We weren't paying a lot of money so I got some basic level staff in. This was in 1998. It took me a year to find one but I found a consultant that over the next two years I spent \$154,000 on and he helped us bring up the network and while we were doing that worked on helping me to train my staff. This was also during Yarger Decker. Mr. Decker and I worked together to find a job description for a LAN Administrator. I still did not fill that position, however, for another two years because I did not find somebody to fill it. The consultant that we had who helped us build our network was very, very good. He came once a week on Wednesdays. We paid him \$100/hour. He lost him after a year and a half when he was contracted for a federal government project so the consulting agency said don't worry about it we have somebody else that we can send you. So they sent us this other person and in two months he took the network down. The network was down for two days. It did not come back up until we got the original consultant back in on a Saturday and he spent about 20 hours getting the network back together. At that time, we did not have web access or e-mail. There were no such things as worms or spam or spyware. We used the Internet for browsing and to send out e-mail. We did not have departments using the Internet for their regular applications such as the City Clerk's Office does now for vital statistics and the Solicitor's Office does for the law library. I do a lot of purchasing. I purchase probably \$2 million worth of equipment a year and I get quotes for everything. It is so easy to get quotes because you have quote groups. I send it out over e-mail and I have people come to me.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked can you tell me where is that \$2 million worth of equipment that you purchase.

Ms. Angell answered I spent \$2 million worth of funds. Some of it is for software. Some is for hardware. Some is for maintenance agreements. It is here.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated your total budget is \$2.2 million.

Ms. Angell replied you are right.

Ms. Prew stated those are not all our funds. By City ordinance we purchase all of the data processing equipment and services for all departments. When they receive grants that involve technology, the funds for the technology funnel through our department and we make the purchases for them. We have a line item budget under \$1 million but we spend a great deal more money on behalf of other departments. That includes grants and certain bonds.

Ms. Angell stated we will be spending over \$1 million just for Fire alone this year.

Alderman Osborne stated without getting into too much detail what other services would be disrupted.

Ms. Angell responded on the network we dispatch Police and Fire and that could be disrupted. We monitor buildings for HVAC. That could be disrupted. People using HTE, which is the payroll and financial, that could be disrupted. Also I would like to say this particular position right now is paid \$66,000 and when I saw these cuts I went to the Robert Half employment agency and said here are the certifications the person needs and this is what he is responsible for how much is it going to cost me if I lose him for a consulting contract and how much is it going to cost if they don't cut his position but he gets nervous and leaves. Contracting with a long-term contract it was estimated that it would cost about \$200/hour and if we had to replace him with someone with similar credentials they could get up to \$100,000.

Alderman Osborne stated I know that Diane has been with us since I was an Aldermen back 20 years ago. If these five employees were subtracted from our budget could this department survive? Could it keep going in the way the Mayor has presented it?

Ms. Prew responded it would function marginally. We would be addressing only severe emergencies. Not only is he recommending cuts in personnel but he is also recommending an enormous cut to our service agreement. These are the maintenance and licensing agreements that we have to pay in order to use the software. If we don't pay these agreements we don't have support for the software in certain cases and in other cases where there are subscription services we can't use that software at all. So between the loss of those funds and the five positions the City would be functioning in a very, very marginal fashion.

Alderman Osborne asked could it get by.

Ms. Prew answered no.

Ms. Angell stated I would like to add a comment. In our packet we included a section of special projects. A lot of these are grant-funded projects. There are a lot of Fire grants and Police grants and almost all of these projects require network engineering. If I don't have a network engineer I will have to pay consulting services to get it done so those consulting services that I will have to pay will cost me more than just having a position and then I would only have a part-time network administrator instead of someone who is there full-time or basically available 24 hours a day.

Ms. Prew replied I would add to that that the budget does not allow for funding for any kind of outsourcing of any of this.

Alderman Duval stated during your discussions...well let me back up. You had an opportunity to present your position and your thoughts with the Mayor?

Ms. Prew responded the first opportunity we had to speak with the Mayor concerning our budget was last Tuesday. When we had our regularly scheduled budget meeting he was in New York so we met with Sean Thomas and Kevin and Randy from the Finance Office. The Mayor was not present.

Alderman Duval asked was there discussion relative to the sub-contracting out of services. Was that perceived to be perhaps a money saver during any part of your discussion?

Ms. Prew answered the Mayor mentioned...we talked specifically about the upcoming CAD install for the Police and Fire and the example we had was that if we purchase the hardware for that contract and install it we will save the City \$100,000. The Mayor's response was well it is a one time thing and if you contact it out you wouldn't have to have that person and pay benefits and such. The track record as you look at the work we have done...we never have these people idle. There are always project. When we finish a particular project there is another one in the pipeline. We would be constantly outsourcing these capabilities. Once the systems are installed, they still need to be supported. Either you support them in-house or again you have to outsource for those kinds of people who can support that for you. You have to do it one way or the other. To keep these systems running they need to be supported. You either do it in-house or you outsource it. I would add, again, there is nothing...the positions were taken out and there is nothing in the budget that would allow us even to outsource anything.

Alderman Lopez stated you have one vacant position now and I think you have a person who is going to retire.

Ms. Prew responded yes. That is the Administrative Assistant who will be retiring in November of this year.

Alderman Lopez asked if that is the case and these two positions weren't funded, everybody else would have to pick up the pieces as they are picking up the Computer Programmer now correct.

Ms. Prew answered that is correct.

Alderman Lopez asked and what type of disruption would there be. Any or just more assigned duties?

Ms. Prew answered I will let Jennie speak to the Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Angell stated the reason we put the Administrative Assistant on the 3% cut was she is planning on retiring in November.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked what are her wages.

Ms. Angell answered she is the lowest paid person in our office. She makes \$34,777. Everything she does has to be transferred to the staff that is left. She answers the phone and triages the calls. She also and this is the reason Diane asked me to address this is she does a tremendous amount of work for me because as we said in addition to our \$700,000 line item budget, we also this year alone will be purchasing \$2.2 million worth of hardware and software on behalf of other departments and she receives every item that comes in. \$1.2 million worth of electronic devices this year. This includes PC's, printers, switchers, monitors, anything. She takes them out of the box, inventories them, and makes sure that we received everything. This right here is a fiber gbic. I have 39 of these. These are worth \$700/piece. We get stuff like this. She goes through all of it. It is in a database. Anything that has a warranty is in a database. If you look underneath Alderman Roy's laptop there is a fixed asset tag. I can tell what funds I used to buy it, when I bought it, and what the warranty is. I need all of this to be able to manage the assets. It also keeps us from having problems with theft. I know where the stuff is. She is the one who puts all of this information in so I can manage my 3,000 pieces of highly desirable electronic equipment. This is what she does. If she is not here somebody else has to do it.

Alderman Lopez stated in understanding that, the duties that she performs for \$34,000 seems like an enormous amount. Again, this would not disrupt the operation as 5% would do versus 3%. Do you understand what I am saying?

Ms. Prew asked do you mean losing five employees versus two employees. Obviously it would not impact us as greatly. There is no question about that.

Alderman Lopez stated I noticed that the service agreement line in 2006 you had \$356,000 and in FY07 you went to \$430,000 and the Mayor put in his budget \$330,000. Did you assume other service agreements? You might have said it and maybe I missed it but do you have other service agreements to bring you to that \$430,000 if we don't provide it?

Ms. Prew responded yes. We have a large piece of IBM equipment that is coming off of warranty that now has to go onto a service contract. On annual maintenance agreements you typically have increases each year, which are in the range of 3-5%. Those are reflected here. We have additional equipment. Specifically we have equipment that is going to be used for putting the GIS information out on a public server. It is a new service that we are going to be providing.

Alderman Lopez asked are those contract agreements though. Have they already been signed?

Ms. Prew answered yes they are already on the books.

Alderman Lopez stated they are already on the books so it is an obligation and agreement that we have with a vendor.

Ms. Prew responded maybe this would be a good opportunity to go over something in terms of service agreements. Every time the City gets a grant that involves technology, for example the Fire Department is going to be getting mobile data terminals to put in their fire engines, the grant assumes that they are making the initial purchase but the City is accepting the responsibility for maintaining that equipment going forward. As time progresses and that equipment comes off of warranty, that will have to go on service agreements that we pay for. When that software needs to be upgraded, they will be looking for the upgrades to come out of our budget. So our budgets are always going up as departments are getting new functionality in terms of technology. This has been going on since the department started and it continues to go on. It is a fact of life. Now certain things do get retired. Sometimes we are able to find ways of cutting costs. In actuality after reviewing the budget we did find that we can reduce that number to \$417,000 so we were able to cut about \$12,000 from that. Those are payments that the City has to make if it wants to continue to use the programs.

Alderman Lopez asked the 0441 is that the same category too that you increased to \$82,000.

Ms. Prew answered 0441 is Maintenance and Repairs. It is not cost effective to put every piece of equipment on maintenance. We don't put monitors, printers or those kinds of things on maintenance. It is just not cost effective. So when they have problems we fix what we can and otherwise we replace them. So that account is for replacement parts or for replacing a printer once it is inoperable.

Alderman Lopez stated I have one final question. I remember a time a few years ago that you had a hard time getting technicians and I think in working with HR we were able to do it. I think sometimes we get tripped up as lay people saying that you have 12 or 13 or 19 computer operators and I just want to point out that what you presented in our budget was eye opening so we can understand the technology that we talk about in the business world as we are a business in a sense of \$260 million and we need your expertise and your technicians with their qualifications otherwise we are going to suffer in the long run.

Ms. Prew replied that is correct.

Alderman Smith stated it is not a significant sum but it just bothers me on 0433 Custodial Services the budget is nothing and I go down to 0618 Custodial Supplies and it is funded. Now you have no services but you are funding supplies. I just can't understand that.

Ms. Prew responded that would be for toilet paper and paper towels and things that we would need. Let me explain. On custodial services you will notice that the Mayor cut it out of our budget also. I think what is happening is that we do use the City's maintenance people but we were not part of the original contract and, therefore, we have to pay separately from the contract for our maintenance. It should cost us \$7,000. Obviously if we don't have cleaning staff we are going to have a problem but in the 3% budget we really had to do that to meet the service agreements. In order to be able to pay for those service agreements and contracts we need to cut out almost everything out of our line item budget. There are other fixed costs in my budget that I would like to point out. There are Other Services, which is a little over \$14,000. That represents the mail service. These are expenses for the tax bills, the motor vehicle registrations and other mailings such as W-2's and such. This is the company that we send the bills out to. They fold them and stuff them and put the proper postage on them and allow us to get the lowest possible postage rate. Also our telephone line item is a fixed item for us because it provides the City Internet connection. Without those funds there would be no Internet and no City website. We also pay for the postage for mailing those tax bills and those motor vehicle registration forms and again the miscellaneous forms. Those are a fixed cost for us. For those bills to go out we need to pay that postage. Then the printing. We pay for the printing of those forms and we got those forms down as minimal as possible but we still have to use special forms for



the tax bills because there is all of that back printing that goes on and it needs to have a clean perforation so it can go through the lockbox process. These items are all fixed costs. In order to the City to send out its bills and collect its revenues, we have to pay these costs. Those costs alone amount to 93.2% of my entire line item budget. So there is nothing left in the line item budget to speak of. What that does to our Maintenance and Repair budget, we have \$18,000 for an entire year. That is not going to take us too far. We will do emergency repairs.

Alderman Smith asked what is the value of all of your equipment. I am talking about maintenance and so forth. That is what I am trying to get at. Apparently you are going to have equipment there but nobody is going to maintain it.

Ms. Prew answered it is in the millions and millions of dollars.

Alderman Pinard stated you kind of answered my question but I am not satisfied. The postage. I guess we have quite an interest in the Post Office in the City of Manchester. Is there a way that you could cut the expenses and maybe put two or three bills into one envelope. That is an awful lot of money to use on stamps. It would probably be cheaper to use our courier to deliver it. That is a lot of money. We are trying to figure a way...if you are out there like I am talking to the people and the outcry is taxes I think that you and everybody else is going to have to really go down the page and try to cut. That is an awful lot of money. Your telephones again. I feel that a lot of these desks side by side should not have all of these answering machines. I think that is an extra cost. Those are my feelings and don't shake your head because I don't like that. I am here to do a job for the taxpayers and that is to cut so I am just saying is there any duplication of efforts in departments. I am sure you get the network working but is it working sufficiently for the expenses.

Ms. Prew replied would you like us to start with an explanation on the postage. Tony Schaffer is primarily responsible for that and can fill you in on detail as to why...

Vice-Chairman Gatsas interjected not too much detail.

Alderman Pinard stated I am just bringing an idea of one particular area that maybe if you look into it we will probably be able to save money. That is the reason we are all sitting here is to save money.

Ms. Prew replied I understand that Alderman but we have been putting out the tax bills for over 20 years and we have been through many reiterations of ways to process them and I feel quite confident in saying that we have probably got the

cost down as low as we possibly can and provide the amount of information required by the state.

Alderman Pinard asked isn't there a way that the tax bills could go with the water bills or something to that effect.

Ms. Prew answered they don't all go out on the same schedule. The water bills may not go to the owner of the property that would be paying the tax bill. They may go to people who are renting.

Alderman Pinard responded I understand all of that but I am just saying maybe we should look into ways of cutting the postage down.

Alderman Osborne stated getting back to the employees, this Assistant that Alderman Lopez was talking about who is making \$34,000 how much would you say this individual makes for the City if anything or how much is she worth being there and if you were to lose her and somebody else takes her job how much are you losing on that person who is taking her duties over.

Ms. Prew replied what would happen is the technical staff would have to take over receiving the equipment, unpacking it, and inventorying it. These people are paid a good deal more and these are the people who normally would be out in the departments supporting the work that the departments have to do. It is one of those...

Alderman Osborne interjected so by losing this particular person there is no advantage. There is a disadvantage.

Ms. Prew replied yes there is a disadvantage to it and I would like to say when we first hired this position we thought we were looking for another technical position and then we evaluated what work we really needed to have done and we determined that this Administrative Assistant would really take away from the technical staff these kinds of more manual tasks and make them more efficient and allow us to pay a lower cost position.

Alderman Osborne asked so she is well worth the \$34,000.

Ms. Prew answered we feel she is yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think people from the outside and from working for various business could say maybe for 1,000 employees and we have a ratio of 19 people in our Information Technology Department that is a lot but I think you have to look at where those employees are and you can't compare the operation of

the City of Manchester to a single office building with 1,000 people in it. If I look at the summary we have 51 different buildings and 417 printers. Put a single printer in City Hall in the middle of the hallway downstairs and we will see how efficient City government is then. We need these printers so that people aren't walking down the hall to get something they printed out. I think this department has more than justified their abilities over the years. I don't know why this year they are on the radar screen. In all of my years here they have never been on the radar screen because I think they are efficient, they don't ask for a lot, they are in a lousy set-up and I will say that publicly. I can't believe and I would love to see a value of the assets that we have in the basement of 100 Merrimack Street. It is in the tens of millions of dollars I am sure and we are lucky it hasn't been floating down Merrimack Street at some point. I just see this as costing the taxpayers money if we have to bring in consultants at \$100/hour. It makes no sense to me. Now Diane I would like to concentrate on the vacant position and the soon to be vacant position. Is that confirmed that that will definitely be vacant?

Ms. Prew replied yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked how long has the Computer Programmer position been vacant.

Ms. Prew answered since September 2005.

Alderman O'Neil asked so is it safe to say if you call this somewhat extraordinary times that you could survive without that position.

Ms. Prew answered we could survive.

Alderman O'Neil asked if need be and I understand and you have a number of bulletpoints such as telephones will be answered by higher paid staff if the Administrative Assistant isn't filled, purchase orders will be entered by higher paid staff, purchases will be received by higher paid staff, etc. If it had to stay vacant for a period of time could you survive?

Ms. Prew answered yes we could survive.

Alderman Forest stated you started off talking about losing the LAN Administrator. I am familiar with the LAN system but could you just explain a little bit what the LAN system is?

Ms. Prew replied I will defer that to Jennie.

Ms. Angell stated the City has a network that has grown to cover as we said 50 buildings. The majority of them are connected by a fiberoptic cable and attached to the fiberoptic cable are switches, servers, and intrusion detection systems. It is a system that allows someone to get on to their PC. For Alderman Roy there is an access point in the ceiling and it magically gets from his PC to where he is going whether it is going to his e-mail on the City or his hotmail or wherever it is going. There is an Internet access point at the Rines Center. We have another Internet access point at our office. In the event that we lose one of our Internet access points as we did with Verizon when there was water going into the cable at the Rines, all of the traffic automatically routes over the other connections so our users still continue to work even though we are having a network outage. We have fiberoptic cable that runs to the tower at Tower Hill. The Fire Department is working on putting their radio connectivity and connecting that on to the network so that will be a redundant connection for them. We are expanding the fiber over to go through the Elliot Hospital, which is where their back-up radio site is. So their radios will go through that also. We have what is called a redundant ring so in the event that a backhoe digs up cable and this does happen or a car takes out a telephone poll, this also happens, that the network will detect that oh I have an outage and something is broken and the data will go around to the other direction in an attempt to keep everybody up and running. The network is used for HTE. It is used for HVAC monitoring in the schools so Facilities now knows in real time that suddenly a building on the weekend is down to 45 degrees. They know that and they get warned before the pipes freeze so they can take care of the problem before it gets to an incident and Tim Clougherty told me an average pipe freeze incident costs around \$10,000. So the network now has touched everything. Everybody goes over it. It is similar to what you have at your house but we have data on it, we have security devices, we have intrusion detection...this is all part of the network. We average 10,000 to 12,000 intrusion attempts into our network every single day. Those are rogue programs that go around trying to get in. We protect you from that. We just recently put in new spam filtering devices so we have basically eliminated all of the "Buy your Viagra here please" and the 20 e-mail spam messages that just show up from who knows where that really impacts...we don't write them they are from Asia someplace. So we are blocking this and these are all devices that are on the network to keep the network running and to keep the people working efficiently and it covers all of that.

Alderman Forest stated one of the questions when you first started you said you would lose the LAN Administrator and I believe you said the position paid \$66,000.

Ms. Angell replied currently the person in that position is making \$66,000 I believe.

Alderman Forest asked so for a cut of \$66,000 if we lose this LAN Administrator can anybody fix the network. Does anybody in your office other than the LAN Administrator keep the system running?

Ms. Angell answered what we have is a LAN Administrator is really a network engineer and he designs all of the connectivity on all of these projects. When you look at our special projects there are all kinds of configuration that goes with that. On the Fire CAD project that is going on right now he was able to look at it and he got approval from the state for a configuration and if we hadn't had him work it out we were going to have to spend an additional \$66,000 on a communications server and an additional \$30,000 on a CAD server if we had done it the way the vendor told us to do it. He came up with another way that saved \$90,000 on just those two items. So there is a tremendous savings there but he does the engineering. I have another person who is coming up behind him who can administer because obviously a LAN Administrator goes on vacation and I do not like relying on one person because it is just not good management practice. So I have another person that I have been grooming and training coming up to be his back up. This is a Microsupport Specialist. I would love to have two network engineers but I don't think the City is going to be able to afford that. The gentleman that I have likes his job. He likes being here. He is not looking to go after that \$90,000 a year job. What would happen though is eventually...the public network is not a static thing. They are always coming up with new ways of breaking in so we need to have somebody who eats, lives and sleeps and loves this stuff.

Alderman Forest stated the Mayor has put in I believe \$300,000 for this Comstat system but can you explain with that \$300,000 that is only buying the system and doesn't include training or software of anything else does it and if so will your budget cover the system if it is purchased and installed.

Ms. Prew replied Comstat is not really a software. It is a philosophy of how the Police Department does business. What the Mayor needs to make Comstat work effectively in terms of providing the information is the new computer aided dispatch and records management system that will be installed for Police and Fire. That system has the capability of providing the statistics and the mapping capabilities when put together with our GIS system to provide the information that they are looking for.

Alderman DeVries stated I would like you to pay attention to the special projects that you detailed out. Within that we already know that the contract replacement costs for the LAN Engineer is about \$100,000 instead of the \$66,000. It would be a contract of \$100,000 a year to replace him but I am looking at a couple of these special projects and the first one that popped out to me was the Vision Appraisal

piece that so many of us will be dependent upon to get things up and online so that they can be properly researched by homeowners and others in the City. I noticed that there is some interface needed. Is there going to be additional costs to any of these special contracts because they no longer can be completed by your staff and will have to be outsourced through contractors? Did you consider that in any of the impacts to your department?

Ms. Prew responded yes. These projects will definitely be impacted if we lose the staff.

Alderman DeVries asked did you break out any of the dollars because with Vision Appraisal we have a set contract with that company. Does it include any of your staff that if your staff is now handling other things because we have downsized you are we going to have to pay more through having to outsource that?

Ms. Prew answered our piece with this is the interface between HTE and the Vision Appraisal system. The costs that would be associated here are what we would have to pay to HTE. There is a piece that gets paid to HTE anyway.

Alderman DeVries asked so on that piece there is no cost but on the rest of the special projects they will just go as outlined previously in any grant applications and there will be no impacts for any of the costs there.

Ms. Prew answered yes there will be impacts.

Alderman DeVries asked where did you detail those costs is what I am trying to get to. I didn't see it anywhere on your list of impacts for two employees cut or five employees cut. I saw no detail of how it will affect your special projects.

Ms. Angell answered first of all I would like to correct something that you said. The \$100,000 figure that I gave you is not a contracting out. That is approximately what I will have to pay to hire somebody directly with the level of skills and abilities and the experience that this person has. If this person that is currently in this position leaves and I am allowed to try to refill the position, that is what that skill level on the outside in Manchester is getting – close to \$100,000 a year. That is not the contract amount. That is just the direct amount.

Alderman DeVries asked was it \$154,000 last time.

Ms. Angell stated in 1998 I spent \$154,000 on a contractor who was in one day a week unless we had a major problem. That is what I was paying him. Every one of these special projects just about needs network engineering.

Alderman DeVries replied that was my question. When you listed the impacts and tried to give us some idea of how it is going to affect...I think you overlooked the special projects.

Ms. Angell responded no I didn't actually.

Alderman DeVries asked where do I find that.

Ms. Angell answered actually if you look at the elimination of the LAN Administrator I didn't go through all of them but I have "the City's network will experience interruptions and downtime which could last for several days" and then it goes on to say "the implementation of the new Police and Fire CAD/RMS system will be delayed and will cost considerably more because the City will have to pay for the network engineering portion of this project." The same thing with backup radios, public access GIS, hazardous material reporting and the disaster recovery site. All of these will require extensive, extensive because you have to remember I have a Network Engineer who is doing this for the City right now full-time so if we lose his full-time I have got \$3,200 a week full-time.

Alderman DeVries stated I think my point originally was if we have written grants in the past that we have already accepted as a Board of Mayor and Aldermen so we are obligated to the grants, whether it is the Police Department upgrades or the Fire Department dispatch upgrades, if a component involves your office that can no longer be serviced because your office is being downsized we are obligated to a component built into a grant application. Has anybody looked into that to see the cost?

Ms. Prew replied we have not gone through each and every project to determine the cost associated with it. Now there are, besides the LAN Administrator, the Web Administrator position would be eliminated and one of the support specialists would be eliminated. All of these have varying degrees of effect on various projects. We could go through them but it would be a very...

Alderman DeVries interjected I am not looking for the detail. I would think that it would be nice to have some idea. Are we talking \$50,000 or \$100,000 and if not tonight maybe you could reply back to me if it is not an overwhelming...

Ms. Prew interjected if we can do that in some general terms we can do that yes.

Alderman DeVries stated with some of the major projects. Speaking of which did you build into future applications because I think there is an additional duty of grant writing and I saw that Jennie Angell does do some grant writing today but when you built the FY07 budget I think the Mayor's proposal has individual

departments taking on all grant writing in-house and eliminating the grant writer at City Hall. Just a reminder that if you utilize him that needs to be reshifted as well.

Ms. Prew responded we got an e-mail from the Mayor's Office saying that was temporarily on hold.

Alderman DeVries stated in reference to the grant writing because I saw that the administrative person does provide some assistance with managing the grants, etc. is there an involvement with other departments. Do they need the technical information in order for them to write their grant applications?

Ms. Prew replied when there is technology involved we make sure or we try to make sure that they request for all aspects of the technology. One of the classic issues that we had earlier on and people are getting used to this now but they would ask for monies to pay for the software but they would neglect to ask for the hardware to support that software so we do review all of that with the departments. In terms of the Administrative Assistant, where she gets involved is there is a great deal of tracking that goes on once the funds are expended for the grants and we have to provide information to the departments so they can make their reports to the appropriate groups that have granted them the funds.

Alderman Thibault stated Diane 0441, your Maintenance and Repair line item, if I understand you right you said that many of these PC's, printers and monitors don't have any service agreements on them and if they break down you replace them with new equipment. Do you keep that much new equipment on hand to do this or you will have to at this point?

Ms. Prew replied no we don't have a stockroom full of equipment.

Alderman Thibault asked but won't you have to if you decide not to fix some of these pieces of equipment.

Ms. Prew answered we won't have any funds to purchase equipment.

Alderman Thibault stated but you would need to have more on hand to replace if you are not fixing them.

Ms. Prew responded that is correct.

Alderman Roy stated we have discussed a lot tonight about employees and looking at the 19 employees out there do you have the best employees that you could have and are they in the appropriate positions with appropriate responsibilities.



Ms. Prew replied yes absolutely.

Alderman Roy stated and you feel like you have recruited a team that is staffed and talented.

Ms. Prew responded most of these people have been with us for quite some time.

Alderman Roy asked if in putting together amendments for the budget we were to not fund the current vacant position what is the cost of that and what would the impacts be.

Rick Linder stated the Computer Programmer position is in my division. Because that person has been gone since September we have had several projects that have been on hold. One of the major projects is the implementation of a fully automated high availability disaster recovery system with THE application. What that would allow us to do is replicate all of our HTE information to the disaster recovery site at the Rines Center. If this system was in place and we lost the computer room in the Fire Station or the entire Fire Station all of this information would be available at the Rines Center and we would lose no HTE information. From there we would be able to run purchase orders and payroll checks. We would basically have a fully functional HTE system at the Rines Center so if we lost the entire Fire building HTE would continue to function and that is something that has been on hold for quite awhile because we don't have the manpower to implement that system. Another one is centralized electronic document management system. The person that left was spearheading that for us so that project has been on hold. Then we have several smaller projects that are just as important. The Health Department currently has several single purpose databases that were written by different individuals there. We would like to combine those into one large database where they could share information. It would eliminate double keying of information into these different databases. That is just another example of a project that has been put on hold because of that vacant position.

Alderman Roy stated a simple yes or no is fine. In order to give the City the redundancy to issue payroll checks and communicate with the Fire Department and the Police Department that position is the person in charge of the project?

Mr. Linder responded actually I would be in charge of the project but I am filling in for that person.

Alderman Roy stated they would be leading the day to day work. One final follow up question, Diane your regular overtime or your overtime in the 2006 budget was \$2,500 of which you have used \$842 so far. Your request and the Mayor's approval was over \$20,000. Could you explain that?

Ms. Prew replied that was an error. When we did have our budget meeting we did point out that that was an error but apparently it wasn't changed. If you look at the impact documentation that I provided on our budget request I do indicate that that was over funded by \$16,000. We were looking for \$5,000.

Alderman Roy stated you mentioned that you met with a representative from the Mayor's Office. Did you meet with any members of the transition team that the Mayor spoke about and if so when and how many meetings?

Ms. Prew responded we met with Shawn Owen representing the Mayor's Technology Transition Team. It was before...I believe it was before we submitted our budget. The individual we spoke to said his report would be made sometime in the future because he was meeting not only with us but with other departments to talk about technology. I don't believe that our meeting had any impact on the budget.

Alderman Roy asked and that meeting was with just one individual after your department request but prior to the proposed budget going out.

Ms. Prew answered yes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I am back to my blank sheet of paper because I need to build a budget. I am not worried about how you run your department or the minutia within the budget. I think Alderman Roy asked you a question. The Computer Programmer, what do you have allocated in your budget for him. That is just a simple question. What is his wage? While they are looking Ms. Lamberton can you tell me what are you allocating for benefits per employee?

Virginia Lamberton, HR Director, responded we use a number of 35%.

Alderman O'Neil stated if I can help you in the vacancy package that Ginny sent to us I think the salary here is the lowest in the grade.

Ms. Lamberton stated what I provided to you if you recall is the minimum entry-level wage for each of those vacancies.

Alderman O'Neil stated that gave \$38,813 plus \$12,808 in benefits. Ginny can you explain one more time what that is?

Ms. Lamberton responded what I did for the vacancy report was I lowered the number to 33%, which is inconsistent with what I just told you because new

employees...they are vacancies and new employees are required to take the Matthew Thornton plan for their first year of employment.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked which is 33%.

Ms. Lamberton answered it is probably a little less than that but that was a pretty good guess. Now a year or so later if they go over to the Blue Choice plan it will be more.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked what is the number again.

Alderman O'Neil stated according to the sheet is \$38,813 plus \$12,808 in benefits.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so that total is somewhere around \$51,600 and the person that is leaving is at \$34,777. Can we call them \$49,000 as a round number with benefits?

Ms. Prew answered she is not leaving until November.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated so that is \$100,000 in the wage line and I need to subtract...if I subtract that out it is going to be subtracted from both the benefit line and the wage line but let's just subtract it from the wage line and leave the benefit and take the \$408,000 that you had budgeted in your FY06 budget and if we multiply that times 7.5% that brings us to a number...7.5% is with the increase in the medical cost so everybody understands what I am using. If I take that number of \$408,937 and add \$30,670 that brings me to somewhere around \$439,000 or \$439,607 for the benefit line. If I take your benefit request and subtract the \$100,000 that brings me to a number of \$1.107 million. If you take those two numbers that I just gave you they are both more or less than the 3% reduction I asked you for. If we start with that premise and we use those two numbers and we build backwards you are going to see that we are going to be pretty close to somewhere around \$2.1 million, which is going to be a 3% request. I guess that is how I am building off a blank sheet of paper and I certainly would like my colleagues to help me get there based on a blank sheet of paper because that is how you build a budget. You take the numbers that you had in 2006 and you try to move them forward. I had to give you an assumption on why I asked for 3% because I can only tell you I have been working with these numbers for awhile.

Alderman Shea stated what I am interested in is the material that you presented to us, is this material that you just present to us or will you be presenting it to the Mayor as well.

Ms. Prew responded the package that you received over the weekend, that information was forwarded to the Mayor also. This presentation we put on here today...I mean we certainly can provide him a copy of the slides.

Alderman Shea stated I think that would be helpful. The second point is the Vice-Chairman is working on a 3% reduction. What did the Mayor actually cut? What percent was that?

Ms. Prew replied he cut over 16% from our FY06 budget. It amounts to a 16.2% cut.

Alderman Shea asked so if we were to support the Mayor's budget then it would be a 16% cut but if we were to have this blank sheet of paper that Alderman Gatsas is thinking about it would be a 3% cut is that correct.

Ms. Prew answered correct. I would like to point out though that we have been talking about staffing and the two positions. Our line item budget under the 3% cut is extremely tight. I mean over 93% of my line item budget is tied up in those six expenses that I had indicated. It leaves us \$18,000 for maintenance and repairs for the entire year. There is no custodial service.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated let's not go there because you are trying to give me minutia and I am not looking for the minutia. We just worked on the wage and benefit line. You need to add that back in. She is going back on the 3% and I am just saying that her 3% if you take a look at her number she used \$452,000 for her benefit line in the 3% reduction so she did her own calculations within that and I am saying that that benefit line should only be \$439,000 with a reduction of somewhere around \$25,000 with two less employees. So she is giving you numbers based on how she set-up that 3% cut. She didn't go line by line and cut it 3%. She took the 3% out and then built her budget underneath it.

Alderman Shea stated I am not sure where she is going but my last question is how many employees would be left under the Mayor's budget. Would there be 13?

Ms. Prew answered 14.

Alderman Shea asked and how many of those people are eligible for vacation.

Ms. Prew asked do you mean retirement.

Alderman Shea answered no vacation during the course of the year.

Ms. Prew stated all of them.

Alderman Shea asked so when people take vacations who would be doing the work if there were two or three people out.

Ms. Prew answered we do cross-training within the department in an effort so that if people are on vacation or out ill other people can fill in.

Alderman Shea asked so the City could carry on in spite of the fact that people are out. That is my concern.

Ms. Prew answered yes. Now that is not to say we haven't called some of these people while they have been on vacation when we have had serious problems. For the most part we do a certain amount of cross-training so we can be without these people for a period of time. Now if we have a staff of 14 that is going to be very difficult. You can fill in for a week or two but when you don't have people for a year or more the impact of that becomes very heavy.

Mr. Linder stated another position that hasn't really been talked about as part of that five is the loss of the Web Administrator position. As Diane had mentioned we currently have over 40,000 unique visitors per month.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded can we just deal with the questions that we ask.

Alderman Osborne stated Mr. Chairman you are dealing with the two positions and working on the 3% by eliminating these two positions, the one that is vacant and the other is that what you are saying.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied the vacant position has been vacant since September and that amount of money is \$38,000 and the other position is \$34,00 plus about \$24,000 in benefits. I am not working on it. That is what they came up with.

Alderman Osborne stated on this vacant position that you have you said you are taking over his position.

Mr. Linder responded I am covering some of the duties that person did. I have other people on staff who are also...

Alderman Osborne interjected what does that take away from you.

Mr. Linder stated well like I said one of the major things we have had on the plate here for quite awhile is that disaster recovery system. That has just sat there. Nobody has been able to do anything with that.

Alderman Osborne asked how much of a loss do you think that is in dollars.

Mr. Linder answered as long as we don't have a disaster it is nothing but it is an insurance policy in case we have some kind of problem.

Alderman Osborne asked so you can function and do whatever you are doing and take over his duties. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Linder answered no. This project has just been on hold. We have not been able to implement it at all.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would like to stay on this topic of the disaster recovery project because it has peaked my interest this evening. Some of the other items we have talked about on a scale of 1 to 10 we can say are a 5. I would have to think that this is a pretty important project and like a 9 or 10. Is that a safe observation?

Mr. Linder responded yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked if for some reason and there seems to be a lot of discussion tonight about the vacant position and the anticipated second vacant position but if the second...are there two programmers in your department.

Mr. Linder answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so one is currently filled and the other vacant.

Mr. Linder answered correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated if that position does not get budgeted, the vacant programmer, is there another way we can address that specific project, the disaster recovery because that seems like it is a disaster waiting to happen.

Mr. Linder responded actually that is the next project other than the Fire CAD project. That is one of my main goals to get underway. We actually did have some conversations with the vendor a couple of weeks ago and I need to supply them some information. I have not been able to get around to getting them the information. It is definitely high on our radar of things that need to be worked on.

Alderman O'Neil asked with or without the programmer position is there a probability that that will be taken care of sometime in fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Linder answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked with or without the programmer that will get taken care of.

Mr. Linder answered that one particular project yes it will.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I am going back to the sheet that we were given. I am reading that there are two Programmer positions - a Computer Program Analyst and a Computer Systems Programming Manager. I guess those are all different positions but they have Program in them.

Mr. Linder replied right. I am the manager. That is my position. The Programmer/Analyst is Tony. He also has been doing duty as the GIS Administrator since we do not have that position so he has transitioned into our GIS Administrator at this point because we don't have the coverage.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked are all of these employees salaried employees.

Ms. Prew answered the Programmer position is hourly. The Microsupport positions are hourly. The clerical staff is hourly.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so when I read in here about your overtime saying that the work would have to be done during the daytime hours the people you just talked about are not the people doing the programming. I assume it is a salaried employee working...

Ms. Prew interjected no it depends on what the problem is. The Microsupport Specialists are people who would work on certain problems and they would be eligible for overtime.

Alderman Lopez stated to follow-up on the 3% let's say you lose these two positions, you have a lot of zeros in a lot of other items that you indicated you would go from \$5,000 to nothing for overtime. All of the zeros that you have down there what impact does that have? I know you had to do the 3% cut but is it going to be a major impact at 3%? Just basically brief us...on the sheet that you have there I understand that but if you have to do just daytime stuff what happens if you do need overtime? Do you take it from some other place?

Ms. Prew replied there is no place to take it from.

Alderman Lopez stated \$5,000 doesn't seem like much overtime when you only had \$2,500 in FY06 and used \$800 so far. What makes you think you are going to need \$5,000 in overtime?

Ms. Prew responded we are looking at the implementation of the CAD system for Police and Fire. We anticipate that we might have more overtime there.

Alderman Lopez asked wouldn't the money come out of there though as far as implementation of the program.

Ms. Prew answered not for salaries.

Alderman Lopez asked there is no contingency where we could transfer money from there for salaries.

Ms. Prew answered we did plan for some contingency funds. We had originally asked for, as part of our CIP request, \$380,000. We received I believe it is proposed in the budget that there would be \$300,000 for that. A good portion of that will be required to sign the contract with Intergraph. I am not quite sure of the numbers but I think that leaves us less than \$100,000 for contingency. With a project that size that could be difficult.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked can you explain to me your service agreements. You have already gone over your budgeted amount in the first six months. What do you feel that your expenditure in that line item is going to be and how are you going to make up for that? Where are you going to cut it from now?

Ms. Prew answered we will make up for that by taking it from areas such as data processing or hopefully from maintenance and repairs. We don't anticipate...do we anticipate that to go a lot higher?

Mr. Linder stated no actually most of our service agreements are done on an annual basis so we pay for that up front. A lot of that is due July 1 for the entire year. Even though we used more than what we allocated there won't be a significant amount over that for the entire year.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied so to address Alderman Lopez's questions if you are over \$6,000 in that line item there are obviously spots within the budget you can find to replace dollars.

Ms. Prew stated we have no choice.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded right there you go.

Ms. Prew stated on a 3% there will be no place to go and look for additional funds.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied there are always places to find money.



Alderman O'Neil stated I want to follow-up on Alderman Lopez's question. I think this is where he was going. When we fund money for a specific project or special project like the CAD system at Police and Fire is there money for City staff time that if your staff had to come in on a weekend to implement it or Fire and Police staff had to come in...does that come out of that...could that come out of there or what is the general practice with these special projects over the years?

Ms. Prew responded usually the staffing of that would come from the regular salary budget.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you would just staff that out of your regular salary. Do you know if in the case of this CAD with Police and Fire if they plan on doing the same thing?

Ms. Prew answered I really don't want to speak for them.

Alderman O'Neil asked how about other projects that may have been implemented. Do you have any knowledge about other departments?

Ms. Prew answered the only time that I recall that we got into that kind of thing and it was all laid out ahead of time was when we had enormous overtime costs with HTE. That is the only time.

Alderman O'Neil asked to the best of your knowledge and I don't want you to speak for others and it is probably not fair that I ask you about other departments but regarding your department traditionally when these projects are implemented you do not charge staff salary or overtime to those projects.

Ms. Prew stated Jennie is just telling me that we can't do overtime for grants.

Ms. Angell stated I don't know about all of the grants but Homeland Security grants that we have been doing with the Fire Department, the question has come up and while he can reimburse time he cannot reimburse time at time and a half. It is not allowed. At least the particular grants I have been working on with him.

Alderman O'Neil asked but not all of our projects have been grants.

Ms. Angell answered no but if we are doing grants.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to ask you in the Mayor's proposed budget you are losing five positions and getting probably over \$575,000 less in your budget right.

Ms. Prew responded right.

Alderman Smith stated on the so-called blank page or the Chairman's budget minus 3% it is about \$369,000 and giving the Chairman the benefit of the doubt with his calculation it would be about \$250,000 and two positions correct.

Ms. Prew responded we were looking at losing two positions.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to go back to your special projects sheet and the Fiber Grant for \$143,000. I know most of these involve safety and one happens to be...we spent over in my ward money to renovate the fire station and the fiber will probably not be installed or be delayed and that is for Fire Station #2. Mostly these deal with safety and the hospitals. Would we lose the grant if it wasn't done in a certain time and you said there would be an added cost and the \$143,000 wouldn't be sufficient to go through all of these fiberoptic installations? Is that right?

Ms. Angell stated this project is ongoing right now and being installed. We have sufficient funds for the installation of the fiber and the components that are going at all of these sites but once this is all put in it has to be configured onto the network and it has to be engineered and if I don't have the LAN Administrator to do the engineering for this I will have to pay somebody else to do the engineering for this. I don't think it is something that is going to take our staff person a great amount of time, however, if I had to contract it I would have to pay all of the time that the contractor would take to come up to speed with our infrastructure and that could be considerable.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas called for a five-minute recess.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas called the meeting back to order.

b) Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department

Ronald Ludwig, Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Director, stated I am not sure if it is a pleasure to be here but we are here. We are going to go through this as quickly as possible and try to get members of the Board right to questions. It is getting a little bit difficult to function at this time of night but anyway we have been here several times to tell you about who Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries are so I think everybody is pretty familiar but for members of the Board that haven't been here before this basically is our vision statement – "To be a progressive agency that meets the recreational and leisure needs of the residents while

complementing the City's economic and redevelopment goals." We honestly believe that the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department is an important part of economic development in the City. People who come here for schools want to have playgrounds and pools and things for recreation and it is really about quality of life in general. Our mission statement is to provide quality recreational facilities and programs that serve the public and enhance the quality of life. So it really is about quality of life and if you don't believe that take a ride around in the evening. Take a ride around to the playgrounds and look at them and see how many kids are out there. That is no testimony to us as a department. It is a testimony to the fact that this Board and previous Boards and Mayors and I am not going to name them because it doesn't matter but they have had a real commitment in seeing that recreation has been funded appropriately as time goes on. Not to beat that up but we are here to tell you tonight that it is a huge investment that you have made in Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries and to not fund it appropriately now and maintain it would be a travesty in our opinion and it just wouldn't be good for the residents. I think now more than ever people are going to be looking to the City this summer to provide services in terms of swimming pools and parks and playgrounds and athletic fields that are mowed and kept appropriately. Gas is going to be \$3/gallon so there will probably be more people sticking around the City this summer than ever before. So we will take you through it. The next page and I am hoping...if anybody needs a breakdown of our line items I guess we could give you that but we kind of lumped this together across the board. As you can see the first column the FY07 department...this is a bit modified down from what we originally gave the Mayor. The reason it is is because we looked at the Mayor's number and said well I guess the Board of Mayor and Aldermen who have recommended improvements in the City...we kind of throughout the year take suggestions from the Aldermen when they call in and the Mayor's Office and anyone else who says we would like to have this done or that done or more of this or more of that. We built our original budget on requests that the Aldermen gave us. This included things like doing additional spraying at gateways to the City where people are getting off highways and weeds have grown up on islands and they are ugly and things like that. We included a long list of items in there. This budget – the \$3,551,734 is not that list at all. This is a list that we are saying that if we were funded and it is a 5% increase over and above the FY06 adopted is a number we could live with. You can see there what the Mayor recommended for us - \$3,254,201. Then we went through an exercise as we were requested to by the Finance Committee to look at 97% of our FY06 budget. The next column is the FY06 budget and the last column represents what we have basically left for this year with three months of the budget season to go. I just want to note on the bottom of this that this does not include...this budget does not include funds for Gill Stadium. Gill Stadium right now and I know this gets confusing but it is funded in the Enterprise. The number that is funded in the operating budget is a not for profit number that we had included in this year's

budget. That is the only thing. Right now Gill Stadium is not funded in the operating budget. It is funded back in the Enterprise. This is just a quick slide that kind of demonstrates where we have been in the last six years budgetarily. What this shows is a compounded annual increase for the general fund budget of 1.5%, which you can see is very small. We sure have had tax increases in the City of Manchester over the last six years but it hasn't been because of the Parks & Recreation Department. I thought this was an important slide to demonstrate that...it is about a 10% increase in six years. That is not a lot. Again I will run through this quickly, some of the service that we provide. We maintain all City parks, youth and adult recreation programs, public pools and beach, tree cutting and tree calls, right-of-way brush clearing, which is huge amongst the Aldermen. As they travel their wards during election time we get more calls about trimming brush, which is a major problem on sidewalks. Because it is green it is assigned to the Parks Department. That is okay. We feel that we should try to go out and take care of it. School playground maintenance. We mark, line and groom athletic fields. We provide interments and upkeep of cemeteries. It is not just Pine Grove but several historical cemeteries the size of Valley Street. Wreaths, geraniums and special perpetual care is provided at the cemetery and we plow 23 school facilities plus our own recreational facilities. Other services. We have a portable bandstand that the City takes out for numerous events throughout the year. Some of those we do receive funds for. Others we do not. Veteran's organizations are provided the use of the bandstand for free. There are a lot of City uses. There are functions on Hanover Street that are affiliated with either the Aldermen or Mayor's Office and we try to provide free...

Alderman Lopez interjected can you just slow down a little bit. I think the public is going to lose you.

Mr. Ludwig stated special group events. The tensile structure. This is the yellow tent that goes up in Veteran's Park. We have basically one person in the department who understands how this is put up and does it yearly with some part-time help and some of our full-time people as well. Park and athletic field project planning. We do several million dollars a year. We oversee either school projects like the Memorial High School project and the West Memorial project and the reconstruction of Derryfield Park up here at Derryfield. We take on rail to trail projects with grant money that we receive. Weed control we looked at again because that seems to be a major point of contention with some Aldermen. There is an attractive level of...when you come into the City off of Wellington Road or Hanover Street and places like that they don't always look as nice as we would like them to look. The Granite Street area with that new ramp will probably have a similar situation there. We provide a semi-professional ball field, which is Gill and indoor and outdoor public and private skating. Derryfield Country Club is our 18 hole municipal golf course and McIntyre Ski Area where we provide skiing,

snowboarding and tubing. Next you will see our organizational chart. We have the Director and the Deputy Director. As of about 10 years ago when we reorganized the entire department. So we are probably one of the few departments that has taken the opportunity when we were consolidated with the Cemetery Department to consolidate. So if anybody wants to know about consolidation we have been through it before. We are not just the Parks & Recreation Department. We are also a Cemeteries Department. We have had to actually use the Cemetery Department in some of our other functions due to staff shortages in different areas. This is a breakdown of facilities. As you can see downtown parks and we maintain neighborhood parks, school parks, city-wide parks, riverfront parks, trails...trails are something that are ongoing because the trail system that we have inherited from the state, while it is a great tool and we all want to see it developed over a period of time, we do it section by section as grant monies become available. It takes awhile but I think that some day hopefully, well I don't know how many of us in this room will see it all done but I think it is a great project to keep going. We will have connections from Goffstown right to the beach someday or in a north and south fashion to the airport. It is a great opportunity. Again, we are providing the country club and the golf course. We have a brand new magnificent facility up there now that is really taking off this spring. Ice arenas we have two. Ski areas we have one. Swimming pools and so on. Crystal Lake is a beautiful amenity out there in South Manchester and we are trying to take a look at that by virtue of doing a Master Plan in the future. Actually it is going to be underway soon. Historic cemeteries just so people know are some of the smaller ones that exist around the City. It is not just the Pine Grove or the Valley Street Cemetery. It is Amoskeag, Goffs Falls, Huse, Manchester Center, Merrill, Piscataquog, and Stowell cemeteries. Just some statistics. We are maintaining about 1,200 acres of park land, about 66 parks and 10 recreational facilities. Pine Grove Cemetery is about 275 acres of which about 175 are developed. Valley Cemetery is at about 20 acres. We have seven historic cemeteries, 12 miles of trails and 55,000 street trees. Some of the adult programs that we are involved with and there are some volunteer efforts out there to help us with this and Thank God we have those. The Walk for Your Health Program, Darts, and Bowling. Youth Programs are Fun in the Sun, which is extremely popular. There are 200 children involved at three different locations throughout the City. We have after school programs at Beech Street and Wilson Street schools and the Regis M. Lemire Youth Center, which is a teen drop-in center for kids to come in and do homework. It is a structured environment for them. Parades. We participate wherever we can with our bandstand – the Christmas parade, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Fire Prevention and Veteran's Day Parades. We actually put on the Fourth of July fireworks. The City has been very...they have funded fireworks for the Fourth of July even to a little larger extent than we have in the past and I think they were really great last year. Our department does oversee the coordination of that event. We participate in various festivals,

concerts, walk-a-thons and road races. Partnerships. We do partner with Friends of Valley Cemetery, Intown Manchester, and people up at Stark Park now. So we continue to develop these kind of relationships wherever we can because we really don't have the resources at the present time to be able to do it. We are about people and we work with people and if it wasn't for them coming out and doing the kinds of things they do we just couldn't function at all. Then we list some impacts of the Mayor's budget. The Mayor's budget as you know took the original salary number, added on the COLA's and additional increases for staffing and reduced that by 4%. For whatever reason our salary reductions equal 18.2% of our full complement. 11 positions are eliminated, which equals 18% of our workforce. It also designates our Business Service Officer to be eliminated. I just want to make a couple of points about the Business Service officer. Our BSO hasn't been in the department forever. It was about 10 years ago when the Board of Mayor and Aldermen decided they were going to split us up budgetarily between an Enterprise system and a general fund system. We have made adjustments along the way and we continue to make adjustments relative to Gill and we will probably get into that later tonight but it was at that time they recognized in HR and I think in Finance that this position was really one that was needed in our department. We are a \$6 million department, which by no way makes us the largest budget in terms of numbers but we probably have the most complex budgeting system that you could have or create in the City. Between tracking enterprise...we are operating basically five separate little businesses under one roof and it becomes a very convoluted method of budgeting. We have a lot of crossover workers – parks workers and general fund workers crossing over working in the enterprise system and vice versa. We do contract work for the School District and believe me they hold us accountable for everything we send them on a quarterly basis and it needs to be tracked properly. He oversees the entire office staff and provides guidance to our Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable Clerk and my secretary and everyone else in the office. He supports the members of our staff like the Parks Operations Manager and the Enterprise Manager in all of the initiatives they have and questions that they need so they are in daily contact with this particular individual and if we lost that kind of daily contact it is going to hurt the department and it is going to hurt our ability to track our costs and track where we would be at any business. I don't think any business would want to run without having an accountant at their right hand and at their immediate disposal but we will take a look at it. Reduction in...for some reason our salt line item, which is basically for schools that we provide plowing services for, was eliminated. The reason indicated to us is that it may be better for us to obtain salt from the Highway Department. It was about five years ago and I may be off a little bit but a decision was made and we were asked by the Highway Department to create our own pile of salt in another location. There was confusion with trucks and their pile was being used up faster they felt than it should be so we located our own pile and built our own bin up at the Parks garage

and that is the way it went. Why that is not in there, I am not sure but it is not funded in our budget. The reduction in staff reduces enterprise services. What do I mean by this? With the reductions that we are looking at in staff, both the vacant positions and the actual lay-offs, we are going to need to realign the way we look in Parks. We are still one department. We are not the Cemetery Department and the Parks Department and the Recreation Division. We are going to have to start to realign people at certain times and this is going to have a direct impact on how we provide services. There will be times as I will point out later that might say in snowstorms for instance that we are going to look at taking people out of an ice arena and putting them in a truck. That is going to hinder our ability to generate revenue in these places and we are in a time when we are being asked to show more revenue in these facilities and we are actually going to be impacting them and taking away more. Additionally, the School District and we provide...Parks people in the general fund provide services to the School District. We go out and rake the baseball fields and line the baseball fields and cut soccer fields. That is all tracked as a chargeback with the service agreement that we carry with the Manchester School District. If we start to reduce those, not only because we are short of manpower but because the School District says we might not have certain athletics anymore based on our budget, there is going to be a direct hit on the revenue stream into the Enterprise that we are going to be faced with now. I don't know if that makes any sense to you. I know it is a little bit confusing but that is going to be a loss of revenue that typically we would get from the Enterprise. This isn't all about dollars tonight. This is about the fact that we are not going to have people and it takes people to provide some of the services that we provide. So there will be revenue losses in both the general fund and the Enterprise fund. Where in the general fund? We will not be providing services due to manpower, loss of carpenters and things like that that are related to providing work that we do on school playgrounds. When school playground equipment breaks the principal typically will call us and we clear it with the School District, that is our new process, and Mr. Sanders will say yes go repair the playground equipment. Now we won't have a body to go and repair that kind of equipment. It may take longer but we will get to it. Tree service. This is something that is near and dear to us. we have two people that are typically assigned to doing tree work. Three when we get an occasional part-time person in the summer. We are recommending that we could eliminate a little bit of tree work and go to two or three days of work and obviously emergencies because trees are a big part of what we do for emergencies. Three or four Fridays ago I don't know if you remember the windstorm that came through here but it was probably as bad as the last hurricane we had in terms of what we do for work. I don't know how it impacted you but it was about a month worth of clean up for us in different parts of the City so it is huge. Additional impact of the Mayor's budget. Again, there is no enterprise subsidy. You know what that means. In this budget that is the \$300,000 that we have received before. I hate to keep bringing it up but I think it is important to let the Aldermen know

that it is not included in his budget and the Enterprise continues to struggle in terms of generating revenue. We have talked to...we have interviewed one marketing firm now that is taking a look and going to provide us with a plan to come in and do some marketing for us and hopefully that will help us. Only time will tell. Delays in servicing funeral directors. This is not to send out a flare to them but there are going to be times when we realign people between Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries where funeral directors...it just seems like on a Friday we get hit with three funerals on a Friday afternoon. It is unfortunate. No one picks the day they want to pass away on but that is the way it happens. If you are the third man in on a Friday afternoon and we don't have live bodies to bury the dead bodies we are going to have to back people up. That is not going to make families happy at all. Reduced staff for plowing. Because of the reduced staff and not necessarily the money...a lot of times snowstorms hit at 3 AM, 4AM or 5 AM. When we get 2" of plowable snow we are ready to react to a plan that takes us out to those school facilities and says don't plow this playground just plow teacher lots, bus drop-offs and whatever. We will not have enough people to accomplish that in the time that is allotted when the snow hits the way it does. It will be just impossible. I can tell you unequivocally that when the Superintendent calls me and he does every snowstorm between 4:30 AM and 4:45 AM that we have never said to him you can't open school because we don't have your lots plowed. Typically he makes a decision based on busses that aren't going to be able to run safely and kids that are walking that mile on sidewalks that aren't plowed yet or maybe the Police who say there is an accident on every corner and they don't recommend having school today but he has never heard from us that we are not ready. We are always ready. We will be the new ones that aren't ready now because we won't have bodies to put in trucks to get snow cleaned up on time and I think that is unfortunate but we will work with it. Reduced lawn care in cemeteries, parks and athletic fields. At this time more than ever we are using athletic fields. Now we are bringing in kick ball, lacrosse and all of these other events. When you start putting athletic fields to use like this and you start eliminating things like aerification, fertilization, top dressing and overseeding you are effectively saying we will be playing in dirt within the next year. You may be okay this year but a year or so down the road you will start to see the ill effects of eliminating all kinds of irrigation and we don't even do exactly what you should be doing now. We are not even there now. It eliminates the set-up the Veteran's Park stage. We have one person on staff that sets up the Veteran's Park stage right now. That is the central structure, the large yellow...some people call it an umbrella. We will not have sufficient people. This is not the end of the Veteran's Park stage so I don't want to start that rumor but I think the City would have to take a look at bringing in a contractor to set this unit up. It would be beyond what we could do with the manpower that we have. That means take it down as well. I guess we could shop for a price. I am sure that somebody is capable of doing it but it is not just a tent that you put up in your backyard. It takes rigging and there



is quite a bit involved and you have to have somebody down there that knows what they are doing. Eliminate special assignments to parks. We do have commitments out there. We assign certain people to certain parks. It would be impossible for me to justify one person at one park or one area even though it is 125 acres and very large and difficult to take care of if I am going to have five people to take care of the rest of the parks in the City of Manchester. That means we will group into two groups of three or two groups of four and become mobile and do parks as best we can when we can and when we get there. Do we want them to look less than attractive? No but you will see the level go down a little bit. I am sure of it. It reduces mowing of downtown parks to once a week. Right now we try to do downtown parks because remember we also pick up the litter. The garbage is picked up by Highway in the cans but the people that get the litter in to the cans is the Parks Department and we do that before we mow. Obviously we don't mow over paper or bread that people are feeding birds. We pick all of that material up and get it into the barrels and we mow. We do that on Monday morning and on Friday so they look good for the weekend. Now we will probably reduce that effort to once a week. Some more impacts of the Mayor's budget is reduce lawn maintenance in small cemeteries. Right now small cemeteries don't require a lot of maintenance. I am not here to lead you down a path that they do but we try to get in there. There is no irrigation at these cemeteries but they are typically abutting somebody's property somewhere. So we do try to get out there with respect to the people who are in those cemeteries and at least cut them once a month. If we get a season with no water we probably don't have to go out there as often. Cemeteries. They will be ready for this Memorial Day by the way because we do have some people coming in in the near future to help us get them ready but in the near future you will see us have less ability to get Pine Grove Cemetery ready for Memorial Day. It is hugely important to some people and we have had complaints before when the cemetery doesn't look good, especially for Memorial Day. Bandstand use and special events. It is something that I think the City provides and it is great. We just had the bandstand out for a walk over on the West Side for the Senior Center and I think the City should be proud to have the bandstand that we have out there. It is a beautiful unit. People love to stand up on it and it makes the event a real event when people are up on that stage so I think it is important. We try to be...like I said Veteran's groups we never charge any kind of overtime or use of the bandstand. Some of the Mayor events or the Aldermanic events there is no charge for overtime. Typically I think there are a couple of Hanover Street events. This is just something that would not be possible for us to provide under the current budget. Again, this comes down to how many people do you have available that want to work bandstand overtime on weekends. Believe it or not there are people...not all people want to work weekends. When you start working them on weekends like we ask them to work on weekends at ice arenas and at the golf course cutting greens they get to summer and they have basically had it with weekend work. They have had it. So it is not always that easy. I am

sure the general public thinks well everyone must want to go out and earn some extra dollars in overtime but that is not always the case and it is not always easy to get that specified person with a tractor trailer license to get out there and move the bandstand. It is just not that easy. We provide assistance to Intown Manchester. I think in the old days they were called Thursday Night Live or whatever but they still have those events at Veteran's Park. We do provide assistance to them on those Thursday nights free of charge right now in Veteran's Park and they name us as a co-sponsor. That is really nice thing for them to do but we think it is something that we provide that provides a nice venue on six or so Thursday nights in downtown. We would probably be looking at either cutting back or reducing that. We try to help Intown again with Christmas decorations and putting up wreaths and such with our bucket truck. That usually means in some cases we are in here at 4 AM when everyone is still sleeping to try to work around vehicles and cars to get that done. I don't know if we will have enough people to be able to do those kind of things not to mention having the funds to do them. Flags on Elm Street we continue to try to help with in terms of parades. Flag Day will be coming up on June 7. We will probably leave them up for the fourth of July and then we will take them down otherwise they start to look lousy and get tattered and we are buying new flags. It is a matter of up and down. The 3% reduction believe it or not is not a great deal different than from what the Mayor has recommended. In our case it adds about \$26,000. It reduces salaries by about \$291,760. It represents about 12.5% of our complement. It reduces police detail by 50% at Hunt's Pool and Crystal Lake. Let me take a shot at this. Why didn't the Mayor's number? Because the Mayor's number funded in the operating budget the number we asked for for Police. We are saying in this budget because it allows us to manipulate the numbers around a little bit that we would take a shot at moving some money out of this line item in hopes of...I don't want to say it publicly but we try to not let the enemy know when we are coming and move the policemen around on different days. We look at different ways to try and work around that. It is just something that we try to do. Crystal Lake. We have helped out there a little bit in trying to limit the number of out of town people that are coming there. Last year that helped us quite a bit. Maybe there is a chance for us to reduce the ability to have to have that police detail out there, which is a significant cost to our budget. If not, I will have to come back to this Board and hopefully get some assistance from the Aldermen and say it isn't working and we are in trouble and we are back to ask for your help. The School Department over the years has asked us to redo these hopscotch four score things the kids love outside on playgrounds. We wouldn't do any of that for the School District. Again the additional weed control that some of the Aldermen and the Mayor's Office and others have asked for in the past at the gateways to the City to try to beautify them, that goes away. The non-enterprise subsidy again there is no \$300,000 there. Significant impact on plowing, which again equals possible school delays. I can't emphasize enough that when we lose these kinds of people

we are significantly impacted. I will go back and pull people out of ice arenas during the snowstorms and things like that. What kind of effect that is going to have on our rental ability at ice arenas...McIntyre there is really no full-time help there. I can't go there for any full-time help. What effect it is going to have I am not really sure but I know we will have to double people around at the expense that the contract allows me to juggle people around between three facilities – parks, recreation and cemeteries to try and cover. Contractually sometimes some of our older people I don't have the ability to move around. All of our newer people since 1995 that I have hired when I give them a letter it says you are being hired for the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department and I have the ability to move you to any place at any time. It just came along as something we had to do from a management standpoint that allows us to be able to operate with the limited number of people we had. It has been agreeable to management and agreeable to the unions and has worked out pretty well for us but some of my older employees do have the right to say I was hired in the Parks Department and other than maybe a one day or a one week stint at the cemetery I am not going to go there on a full-time basis. Is that a good thing? No. The department modified request is about a 5% increase from the FY06 budget. I know here I am talking to you about increases and we are talking about decreases but I don't think I would be responsible if I didn't bring forward to you at least some kind of number that talks about putting us back in shape to be able to honor contractual agreements that we have with various unions. I think it is important that we do that. People take City jobs because they feel there is security in them and I honestly believe that is true as well. If we promised them 2% on July 1 I think you should put in your budget number that you are going to get 2%. We do have a lot of people, believe it or not that in the famous Yarger Decker study are starting to be red lined. I think there are about 20 people in the department now that have hit that category. This does fund...it is all positions funded except the two positions that we have had vacant in this past year, which is a Cemetery Assistant which basically assists the one person who is out in the office at the cemetery and deals with funeral directors and people who come in and want to buy lots or graves or sign up for various perpetual care plans. That person hasn't been there so when the cemetery loses the office person I move the office person from the Parks Department at Derryfield Country Club to the cemetery to cover the week or the day that they are not there and the Accounts Payable Clerk in the Parks Department answers the phone or whoever else is in the office answers the phone. That is the way we have been able to make that work.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am just trying to get a handle...we have received a breakdown of the vacant positions from all City departments. I just want to make sure and that was from HR and it has five vacant positions in your department. A vacant Carpenter. A vacant Recreational Maintenance Supervisor I and three vacant Recreation Maintenance Worker I's for a total of five vacancies. You

mentioned on the last page you just went over a vacant Cemetery Office Assistant and a Horticulture Specialist, which is different than what we have for vacancies. Then I want to go back to the 3% reduction from FY06 to eliminate nine positions – six which are currently vacant you indicate and eleven in the Mayor's budget that would be eliminated. I am just trying to get a handle on what actually is vacant at Parks & Recreation today.

Mr. Ludwig responded the Supervisor was a Foreman position in Enterprise, which I never filled.

Alderman O'Neil asked so is that one of...

Mr. Ludwig interjected it was in the Enterprise. It was a Foreman's position.

Alderman O'Neil asked how does that...I am just trying to get a handle on what is vacant and what is not. Is it one of the six vacant positions...

Mr. Ludwig interjected it is in the Enterprise and I haven't filled it.

Alderman O'Neil stated let me go back and see if we have Parks Enterprise in this report. We don't seem to have in the packet Parks positions broken down by Park Enterprise so this might just reflect...the five vacancies I have might just reflect your general fund vacancies. Is that correct?

Mr. Ludwig responded that is a possibility. I am showing again the part-time office assistant, which has been vacant for awhile. A horticulture position in the cemetery. The cemetery worker, which is a full-time position. The carpenter's position and then two cemetery seasonal positions.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there a possibility Mr. Chairman that Parks can get together with HR. Either the positions aren't classified properly or...there seems to be some difference. So you believe you have six vacant positions today?

Mr. Ludwig answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated so there seems to be a difference of one position and they are not all titled the same.

Rick Riddle, Business Services Officer, responded two of those are not listed on your report because I believe they are frozen because they have been vacant for over one year. The Horticultural Assistant and the Office Assistant are not on your report.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated the Horticultural Supervisor is in here.

Mr. Riddle responded right but we also had a Horticultural Specialist who is not in your report. That has been vacant for over one year.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked when you say over one year is that in your 2006 budgeted requests – the funds.

Mr. Riddle answered no it was not.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked are you sure.

Alderman O'Neil stated can I ask the HR Director a question. If positions were vacant for over an extended period of time would they not have been on the list you provided?

Ms. Lamberton responded that happened perhaps three budgets ago. If they had been vacant when we did the projections Mayor Baines eliminated them in the budget. Frankly some departments didn't realize that happened.

Alderman O'Neil stated I guess just to make sure as we are moving forward not only with Parks but with other departments can we make sure that is somehow reflected in the report that you gave us.

Ms. Lamberton asked positions that have been eliminated.

Alderman O'Neil answered what I read in the report that you gave the Board there are five vacant positions at Parks. That does not jive with what Parks believes they have for vacant positions.

Ms. Lamberton stated well the only thing I will say about Parks is they do have a couple of seasonal positions...

Alderman O'Neil interjected what I believe we asked for was full-time positions.

Ms. Lamberton stated right and that would not include seasonal positions so if Ron is talking...

Alderman O'Neil interjected again the list we have from HR is one vacant Carpenter and you seem to agree with that. One vacant Recreational Maintenance Supervisor I.

Mr. Ludwig stated that is in the Enterprise fund only so we are not addressing that in this general fund budget.

Alderman O'Neil replied but that shows up on what we have for vacancies and then there are three Recreation Maintenance Worker I positions.

Mr. Riddle stated one of those is a full-time 12 months positions and the other two are 9-month positions. They are all the same grade but two of them are 9 month and one is a 12-month.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated the only other one that is missing is the Horticultural Supervisor...

Mr. Riddle interjected and the Office Assistant.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is seven then.

Mr. Riddle responded seven including the one in the Enterprise fund.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated they are saying seven and she has five on her list.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am not being critical I am just trying to get good information.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked will you meet with Ms. Lamberton to make sure we have the correct information.

Ms. Lamberton stated yes we will do that.

Alderman O'Neil stated I didn't see on this presentation and it might be appropriate for CIP but there was a recommendation to move one of your employees from the Regis Lemire Center to the Office of Youth Services.

Mr. Ludwig responded yes. That was something that I wasn't privy to until I saw the proposed CIP recommendation.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that...you highlighted earlier in your presentation about Fun in the Sun and the after school programs. Any idea why that happened?

Mr. Ludwig answered I met with the Mayor on Thursday and he told me he would get back to me on that particular issue. I told him that it wouldn't be a part of my presentation tonight unless it was brought up.

Alderman O'Neil stated well it has been brought up.

Mr. Ludwig stated we didn't have a lot of time to spend Thursday. He did indicate to me that he would talk to me more about this. I really...I am the third man in on this one and I don't know much of what is going on or why it happened.

Alderman O'Neil asked that has been a longstanding...

Mr. Ludwig interjected it has. That is our only recreation function since we lost if anybody here remembers Roland "Bill" Carignan 100 years ago. So that person effectively provides the only arm of recreation programming that we do in the department. I can't speak to why it happened.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that reflected...is that position CIP funded.

Mr. Ludwig answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so that is why it wouldn't show up as part of your general fund complement.

Mr. Ludwig answered yes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I am looking at the big binder that we have before us. Your original request was \$4.3 million and you have modified that to \$3.5 million.

Mr. Ludwig responded that is correct.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so if we are starting with our clean sheet of paper and if I go in to your big binder and I don't know if you have that in front of you. Do you have that big binder because I can't use your modified request because I am going in and I have to adjust on another line item and if I take a look at the modified budget for 2006 for your medical it is \$223,000. The department request and I assume you didn't move any of those line items was \$368,000. A 7% increase in FY06 is a difference of \$102,000. If I subtract the \$102,000 from your \$3.5 million and if I go down in your big book and look at your FICA item it looks like the FICA line item was incorrect by almost \$87,000. If I deduct that from your modified request that brings me to \$3,362,734, which is about \$82,444 over the 3% cut. As you can see, working the numbers backwards on a clean piece of paper we are getting to a number we can build a budget on.

Alderman Osborne stated you were mentioning Ron that you could work with 5% over your FY06 budget. Is that what you said awhile ago?

Mr. Ludwig responded yes that is what I said.

Alderman Osborne stated I guess what a lot of taxpayers out there don't understand is when you say 5% it is kind of scary. Actually 5% doesn't mean their taxes are going to go up 5%. It is probably 1/5 of \$1 million. What are we talking \$175,000 or \$180,000 over your FY06 budget?

Mr. Ludwig responded about \$170,000 keeping in mind that does not include...

Alderman Osborne interjected what about the summer help.

Mr. Ludwig stated summer help is in there and all the pools are in there.

Alderman Smith asked can I have him go to the last page because he was interrupted before he finished his presentation. Gill Stadium. I am sure the finance people would like to hear this.

Mr. Ludwig stated again we just want to bring to your attention, not to start any more controversy than this already has but by an action of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Gill Stadium was moved on January 31 to the general fund beginning on July 1, 2006 but the Mayor in his budget has put Gill Stadium back in the Enterprise, which are the numbers we are working with tonight. So anything you see in the general fund reflects a shortage of what typically would be made up on the Enterprise side and that equates to about \$170,000 in the event that this Board wants to make a decision. We again as I have said many times before can work with it either way. We did separate out the non-profits a year ago. That seemed to work a little better than the system we had before but then again on behalf of everybody here that voted for it the last time we could deal with it but it has been in the Enterprise for about 10 years and probably deserves an opportunity to go in another direction but that is for this Board to decide. We needed to bring it to your attention. By the way right now it is not funded in any budget. It is not even funded in the Enterprise.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so the \$170,000 that you are talking about in here is not in the general fund and it is not in the Enterprise fund.

Mr. Ludwig answered yes and we brought that to the Mayor's attention on Thursday. I think it might have been an oversight in terms of why the \$170,000 or Gill isn't appropriated. There is no appropriation in the Enterprise right now and I think it might have been an oversight



Alderman Lopez asked the \$170,000 does not include the School Department correct. You have a contract with the School Department for X number of dollars is that right?

Mr. Ludwig answered that is right.

Alderman Lopez stated the subsidy that we used to give...we gave about \$115,000 before.

Mr. Ludwig responded correct.

Alderman Lopez stated now Alderman Gatsas you said \$3,362,734 correct.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded that is the number my calculator came up with.

Alderman Lopez asked so Ron the \$170,000 added to your budget would come up to over \$3.5 million right.

Mr. Ludwig \$3.532 million approximately.

Alderman Lopez stated so working with that number that sort of takes care of Gill Stadium.

Mr. Ludwig replied right.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked are you working that off of the \$3.362 million or are you working that off of the \$3.280 million.

Alderman Lopez answered I am adding \$170,000 to the number that you gave us.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated well I haven't gone into it any deeper other than showing you some simple math so we can work with a clean sheet of paper.

Mr. Ludwig stated I am still a little confused. I know that Alderman Gatsas was very quick. I am a little confused as to how we came up with \$3.362 million.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied don't worry we will get you there. Just bear with us. We have to fill that piece of paper up.

Alderman Pinard asked the Business Services Officer who is on the lay-off list, could you tell us a little bit about that.

Mr. Ludwig answered again this goes back to when the Enterprise system started and the fact that we were going to be trying to run five small businesses under one roof in conjunction with the general fund budget. Actually the person who was in charge of doing the accounting for the department at the time threw her hands up and said that's it, this is well above my head at this particular time now that you are going into this system and she decided to leave. It was a decision that was made at that time by the HR Department and I believe the Finance Department that we would look at a higher level of accounting for the department given that we had a very complicated system of budgeting, tracking capital projects and operating more in a business manner rather than just a strict general fund.

Alderman Pinard asked what happens if he leaves you.

Mr. Ludwig answered I don't know.

Alderman Smith stated I am a little bit...this say to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen detailed budget summary and there are about five sentences in the summary on Gill Stadium and there is no rhyme or reason to it. What I take offense to is on January 31 this Board voted 11-2 to take Gill Stadium out of the Enterprise and fund it in the general fund and then a month later it is back in there. I think it is an affront to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I think we made a good response. I can go over the rates with you. They are outstanding. Some of the rates that they are requesting I want all of the Aldermen to know this is prepared by the Finance Department and you can always argue figures but they assume \$1,900 to \$2,000 a day. That is one scenario. Another one is \$455/hour. Then they have other scenarios where the youngsters pay \$5.75 per person for each hour played. Then another thing is a ticket surcharge and we didn't even have a surcharge down at the Verizon. Anybody who goes to a high school baseball game knows that there is going to be 50-75 youngsters here but if you are going to get involved in trying to use a users fee on youngsters I think you are going the wrong way. You provide a service and I think the Parks & Recreation Department is trying to make this affordable for our youngsters. We should try and keep our youngsters off the street. Now we, the American Legion, provide a program for over 70 boys. Babe Ruth has over 250. I don't know about the football teams or Central High but it can all go back to the School Department too. This might be an increase in school fees, which is a chargeback which I think it taken from Peter to pay Paul. I am thoroughly upset that they wouldn't consider out vote of 11-2 and have it back here. Someone is playing games and they are playing games with the youth of Manchester.

Alderman Lopez stated at this time I would like to make a motion to remove Gill Stadium from the Enterprise fund so we can put a good budget together and put it

in the general fund and a resolution should come forth at the BMA meeting tomorrow.

Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I don't think we need to get into that because we are still working on that blank sheet of paper that builds the Aldermen's budget. I don't have a problem doing that a month from now to make sure that we are on the same page moving forward. I don't disagree with you. I am not trying to circumvent you. I just think we should proceed at least...because all we are talking about you know we have a budget that is going to be \$140+ million or thereabouts and we are talking about \$170,000.

Alderman Lopez replied I understand that very clearly but in order for us to move it because there is a process that this has to go through. As long as we move forward with the resolution coming to the BMA tomorrow if it passes here tonight then we know that Gill Stadium is going to be in the general fund if the votes are there. Let's just end this once and for all and I would yield to the Clerk to explain the procedures.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded I just don't think it is a proper place to do it. I think we should get closer to where we are with the budget to understand if that is where we are going. We may find that there are other holes and we have to do other things. I would just as soon see them all done at the same time. I think we are working through this process. We have had three meetings of the Finance Committee. We should at least continue and I am not saying that you are right or wrong but I think we should at least understand where we are going.

Alderman Lopez replied I realize that but it is like...the Board of Mayor and Aldermen are supposedly running this City and we were given the opportunity by the Mayor back in January because this has been promised for the last couple of years. I am asking that you accept the motion and let's see where the vote goes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked what is the motion. Are you going to challenge the Chair again? If we are going to go through this process we might as well just cancel the Finance Committee and just do our budgets and we can come in with 14 budgets.

Alderman Lopez answered I think we have been very cooperative, Alderman, with your white sheet of paper. I think we are very cooperative but I think there is an issue here that we are the Board. We made a decision back in January as to what we wanted to see and because some people...

Vice-Chairman Gatsas interjected I guess my confusion is that vote was there and did we have a resolution that came in and did that from the Clerk. Was there a resolution that came in back when we made that motion? I guess I will ask the Clerk.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated there was an action taken...not in resolution form. There was an action taken by the Board to vote that Gill Stadium be placed in the operating budget.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so if that is what the Board's request was and we are working on the Board's budget, I understand and I haven't moved it out and I don't think anybody else has. I think we are all in agreement that we know what the vote is and I was on the short end of the vote so we are moving forward. We understand that. If we adopt the budget the budget is going to be adopted with Gill Stadium in the general fund.

Alderman Lopez answered I understand that too but I think there are some procedures that need to be done because we have had resolutions go before the public and we need to make sure that this amendment goes before the public of our desire to have Gill Stadium in the general fund. I yield to the Clerk to explain the procedure.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked can the procedure that Alderman Lopez is looking to achieve, can we wait on that until we bring our budget forward.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated it could be done at any time.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so we don't have to do it this evening. We can do it at any time. Is that correct?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered yes.

Alderman Lopez stated but if we wanted to do it tonight Carol will you explain the procedure and what we have to do in order to put it out the Board and put an amendment to the resolutions for the public hearing.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded there are three processes that you are basically talking about. The public hearing by Charter or what goes out to the public will be the Mayor's budget because the Charter requires that no matter what amendments this Board takes or the Board of Mayor and Aldermen takes between now and that time. What we can do and we have done in the past is if the Board takes specific actions we provide that information to the public as well but the physical document that is on the table at the public hearing is the Mayor's budget.

It is my understanding from the discussion that I am hearing that I believe the Board is looking to have a consensus that there is an agreement that Gill Stadium will be placed in the operating budget resolution. That could be accomplished by simply taking a motion that the consensus is that it is going to remain in the operating budget as the Board has previously determined in the event that you come out with a finalized amended budget that gets adopted or you can physically amend the resolution at this time by stating that you are proposing that a line item for Gill Stadium be added and you can simply place the item there without any appropriation at this time or you could add the monies in that Mr. Ludwig has referred to of \$170,000. It can be done any of those three ways and I guess I would need clarification as to what the Board wants to do.

Alderman Lopez stated that is all I am asking for is clarification as to what the Board wants to do at this time.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded I think it is clear. I think the vote was 11-2 in January. I don't think that vote is going to change.

Alderman Lopez stated well let's reaffirm that vote.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so are you asking to amend the Mayor's budget before it goes to a public hearing. Be careful where you go with this.

Alderman O'Neil stated I heard one of the options was just a consensus. I am going to make it clear whether we vote on this tonight or not by the end of the day when we approve a budget I am going to vote that Gill Stadium is in the general fund and I am making that very clear tonight. Whether we vote to do some action or a consensus tonight two weeks from now, a month from now or six weeks from now I am going to vote that it is in the general fund.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated that vote was already taken in January. I agree with you. I don't disagree with that.

Alderman Lopez stated well the vote was taken and he did not put it in the budget. I am asking the vote be taken again and let the paperwork go through the City Clerk.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated the Mayor can come forward with any budget he wants on any recommendation this Board has made one way or the other.

Alderman Lopez replied absolutely and now like you said it is in our hands. The motion is on the floor.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I haven't accepted the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we accomplish what you want to and Alderman Lopez wants to by just a simple vote of a consensus tonight.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas answered I don't have a problem but I don't think we should do a resolution on it. We already had that vote.

Alderman Smith stated I disagree and I will tell you why. For four or five years I have asked for this for every year. It was funded up until last year if you remember correctly and it wasn't because there was a consensus of the CIP Committee that they would be given the benefit of the doubt because the first priority will be Gill Stadium and that meeting was with the two financial officers, Alderman O'Neil, Alderman Shea, Alderman Lopez and I believe Alderman Garrity. This has been going on...it was recommended by the CIP and went to Administration on 5/3/2005 and every year I got the same answer – wait, wait, wait. I would like to move this on and get it done tonight and if the Mayor wants to veto it tomorrow let it be but apparently he doesn't listen to us and that is the only thing I can say. A month ago it was 11-2 and we overrode his veto and here we are again playing games and we are playing games with the youth of Manchester.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated it sounds like we are playing political games and I really think we should be working on a budget here as a group of 14 people trying to put a budget together for the taxpayers of this City. I think we have that opportunity so if we want to play games with youth let's not play games with the youth because Alderman Smith I agree with you.

Alderman Smith replied you might be the Chairman but I am not playing games.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded I'm not either. I am here to support you and I feel I have done that.

Alderman Smith replied it doesn't seem it.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas responded well Alderman I think I proved it. So let's move forward. There is no reason why we need to do this. If you want to take a motion then let's take a motion and we can take a vote but we don't need a resolution unless we are going to put a budget forward tomorrow.

Alderman Smith stated there is a motion and a second on the floor.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied I haven't accepted either. Now Alderman O'Neil I will accept your motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am not going to make a motion right now.

Alderman Lopez moved to appeal to the Board.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Gatsas, Pinard, and Garrity voted nay. Aldermen Long, Duval, Osborne, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest, and Roy voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Lopez stated I would like to move my motion now.

Deputy City Clerk asked for clarification of the motion. Is it merely inserting that as a line item or amending the resolution by inserting a line item for Gill Stadium under the Parks operating budget at this time.

Alderman Lopez answered that is correct.

Alderman Duval stated Alderman Smith has been most passionate about this issue. In fact I was teetering quite honestly as a new Alderman when this came up regarding putting Gill Stadium back into the general fund but it was because of Alderman Smith's appeal and his passionate plea that persuaded me that it was the right thing to do. I still feel very strongly it is the right thing to do and I think there is a right time and a right place to do it. I assure Alderman Smith personally and publicly that I will do everything I can to continue to vote to keep this in the general fund. That is where it is tonight. With that being said, I think there is a reasonable compromise and I understand where the Chairman of Finance is coming from and I would encourage the Board to continue to support Alderman Smith's plea by at least having a consensus tonight, which I think is a reasonable compromise and let's move forward. I would like to move that we get a consensus to show Alderman Smith that we stand firm in our commitment to keep Gill Stadium in the general fund.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked do I have a second.

Alderman Lopez stated there is a motion on the floor.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas replied I accepted his motion.

Alderman Lopez responded there was a motion on the floor.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated I didn't accept that motion.

Alderman Lopez stated we overruled that. I have the right to put my motion on the floor.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked the City Solicitor for a ruling.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold stated there was an appeal to the Board that passed. My understanding is that appeal was over your refusal to recognize that motion.

Alderman Lopez asked Carol can you read the motion again.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated my understanding is that the motion would be to add a line item to the Parks operating budget for Gill Stadium at this time. The amount requested was \$170,000. I don't know if you want to appropriate any funds at this time. That is the question.

Alderman Lopez stated it is \$170,000 that the Superintendent said he needed for Gill Stadium.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded so it would be in the amount of \$170,000.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked so we are now putting monies in resolutions as we go forward.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered you are amending the Mayor's resolution that was submitted to the Board because that would be the action the Board can take at this time.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked and that amendment is happening before the public hearing.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered yes it is. Was that seconded by Alderman Smith and understood?

Alderman Smith responded yes.

Vice-Chairman Gatsas asked the Finance Officer what that would do to the tax rate.

Mr. Clougherty answered it would add \$170,000 to the expense side and increase the tax rate. For every \$1 million it is 26 cents. It would increase it a few cents.



Vice-Chairman Gatsas stated so we are up 3 cents. We haven't even done our work and we are increasing tax rates. That makes a lot of sense.

Alderman Smith stated it makes a lot of sense when you are only going up 3 cents to preserve the kids playing on the fields and providing a service. You are throwing ammunition at us left and right. I wish that you would consider the Aldermen on this Board and not your own personal agenda.

Alderman Lopez requested a roll call vote on the motion. Aldermen Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest, Roy, Long, Duval, Osborne, and O'Neil voted yea. Aldermen Garrity, Gatsas, and Pinard voted nay. The motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk